

PATENT - Customer Number 27778
Attorney Docket No. OTD-030348 US

REMARKS

Presently Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected as anticipated by EP 771. The rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner focuses on seal 54. Seal 54 spans between two flanges 36 and 46 that are bolted to each other. Seal 54 does not need to reach surface 16 and in fact doesn't do so in Figures 3 and 4 as seen not only by the gap between seal 54 and surface 16 but also by the presence of other seals for that very function namely 43a and the two unnumbered seals on ring 140. The structure of this reference doesn't have a seal that spans an annular gap between members that move relatively with respect to each other. The flanges are bolted to each other precluding relative movement between them. The seal 54 doesn't span an annular gap to surface 16. Claims 6 and 15 are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 11 is rejected as anticipated by Fontenot.

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Respectfully submitted,

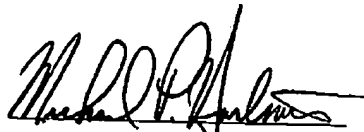


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